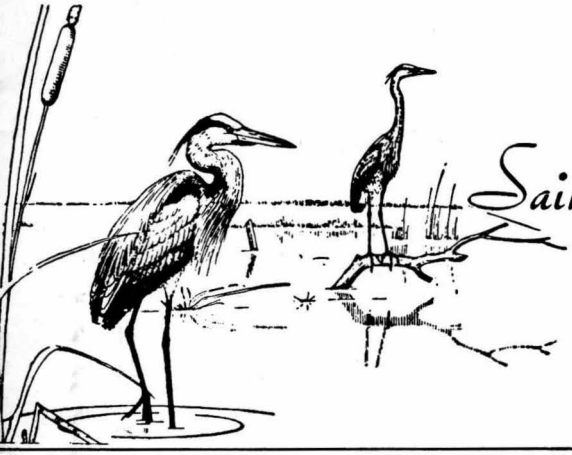

Saint Louis Audubon Bulletin

February, 1960 Vol. 28, No. 2

ERNEST P. EDWARDS
Presents . . . Motmots and Mayas
Thursday, February 11
Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington, 8:15 p.m.

Born in India of American parents, Dr. Ernest P. Edwards has been a traveler ever since. His expeditions have taken him throughout most of the United States, Canada, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Gathering material for his doctoral dissertation on birds in Mexico necessitated several extended trips there. Dr. Edwards has helped organize and lead several additional expeditions to advance knowledge of little-known areas in Mexico. He also conducts bird-watching tours of Mexico for those interested in exploring the out-of-doors under the guidance of an expert.

After undergraduate training in biology at the University of Virginia, Dr. Edwards was awarded his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Ornithology at Cornell. He has been instructor in bird study at the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, and has taught biology at Hanover College in Indiana and at the University of Kentucky. His book, Finding Birds in Mexico, has had wide use among tourists south of the border.

Dr. Edwards is presently Associate Director of the Houston Museum of Natural History in Houston, Texas. Due to his wide knowledge of Mexican birds and their relationships to other wildlife and to plant life, combined with his interest in the problems of conservation in the tropics, he was elected Vice-President and member of the board of directors of the Foundation for Neotropical Research.

Along with his specialized knowledge in the field of natural history, Dr. Edwards brings to the platform a keen interest in people and their relationships to the world around them, making his lecture presentations of special value to all Audubon Screen Tour audiences.

W A N T E D
FOR THE MURDER OF
OUR CITY, COUNTY AND STATE ROADSIDE BEAUTY

Name of offender—LITTERBUG
Description of culprit—Creature throwing gum wrappers, kleenex, bottles, etc., etc. on the ground.
How to capture—When you approach car to service ask if they have any litter in the car that you might dispose of for them.
Reward—Pride in our beautiful communities and modern highways, cleaner, healthier surroundings, individual self-respect.
Sentence—A period of indoctrination and education of the general public.

These few words of yours are worth more than untold money spent in advertising and all the laws made. They become propaganda brainwashing, they become the drop of water that eventually wears away a stone. They nudge the conscience, which will prove the only solution.

East Central District
Federated Garden Clubs of America

NEWS BRIEFS

The new spring ornithology No. 2 course sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society, the Missouri Conservation Commission, and the Division of Audio Visual Education are cooperating with Harris Teachers College in presenting this course. The course carries 2 credits open to in-service teachers only. Beginning February 16 for 16 weeks.

AUDUBON'S BAKER RETIRES; BUCHHEISTER MOVES UP

After a quarter century of service as chief executive officer and president of the National Audubon Society, John H. Baker made his predicted retirement official at the 55th annual convention of the Society held Nov. 7-10 in New York City.

Carl W. Buchheister, senior vice-president, was the unanimous choice of the members to succeed to the presidency. Mr. Buchheister has served the Society in various staff positions almost as long as Mr. Baker.

NEW WILDLIFE STAMPS ARE GOING INTO MAILS

Now going into the mails for distribution all over the continent to persons interested in nature are sheets of new 1960 Wildlife Conservation Stamps produced by the National Wildlife Federation.

Printed by a six-color, 250-line lithograph process, the beautiful 1960 stamps depict 36 species of birds, mammals, fish, plants and reptiles. Suitable for use as mounted decorations and in album collections as well as on correspondence, the stamps feature scenes with real-life settings.

Roger Tory Peterson, author of the famous "Field Guide to the Birds" and recognized as one of the world's foremost wildlife artists, supervised preparation of the stamp artwork and contributed several of his own paintings to the series. Other artists with work on the 1960 stamps are: Bob Hines, Maynard Reece, Michael Bevans, Don Eckleberry and Al Kreml.

Natural-color paintings of the following subjects are included in the 1960 stamps:

Fulvous tree duck, black-capped chickadee, red-headed woodpecker, scarlet tanager, Cory's shearwater, red-necked grebe, semipalmated plover, American redstart, bobolink, redwinged blackbird, black brant, ovenbird, and roseate spoonbill.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK . . . MARCH 20-26

National Wildlife Week, sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation and its affiliates in 49 states and the District of Columbia, this year features the theme of water problems. Slogan for the 1960 observance is: "Water-Key to Your Survival".

MANHATTAN MELODIES

Three hundred and sixty members of the National Audubon Society who attended the 55th Annual Convention enjoyed a day's birding and sightseeing cruise aboard the Hudson River Day Line's boat. 31 species were noted, among them:

Common Loon
Red-throated Loon
Horned Grebe
Double crested Cormorant
Common Egret
Canada Goose
Brant
Black Duck
American Widgeon
Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Greater Scaup
Old-Squaw
White-winged Scoter
Common Scoter
Red-breasted Merganser
Marsh Hawk
Ruddy Turnstone
Purple Sandpiper
Great Black-backed Gull
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Laughing Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Kumlien's Gull
Starling
House Sparrow
Common-Grackle
Buffle-Head
Semipalmated Sandpiper

BIRD FLIES 100 M. P. H.

The record speed for any animal is held by a bird—the frigate bird. It has flying speed of over 100 miles an hour and has been credited with a hard-to-believe record of over twice this speed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the Missouri Chapter of Nature Conservancy will be held in St. Louis April 30 and May 1 at the National Council of State Garden Clubs Building, 4401 Magnolia Avenue. Final details will appear in next issue of the Bulletin.

FROM SUNNY FLORIDA

In a recent letter received from Helen Cruickshank, of Rockledge, Florida, wife of nationally known wildlife photographer and lecturer for the Audubon Society, Allan Cruickshank, and authoress in her own right, had the following to say regarding the Christmas bird count in Cocoa, Florida:

"By this time you probably know that our Christmas Count came up with the really fabulous total of 196 species. In spite of this we missed flamingo, Cooper's hawk (for the first time since we began the counts), Frigate bird, parula warbler, brown creeper and Bachman's sparrow, all seen on the day *after* the count! The flamingo has gorgeous colors and has been here since early June but roams over a large territory which extends outside our circle . . . and sometimes when within our circle, it is difficult to locate it. Even men on draglines frequently telephone us to give us information about the lovely creature! This we really appreciate for, if men of that caliber notice and appreciate beautiful birds, we are really getting somewhere. Two remarkable species we did get on the count were (1) a tropical bird here since April . . . a brown booby and (2) a glaucous gull, straggler from the Arctic which was so obliging as to permit some of the census-takers to photograph it. Right now we are having particular fun with four barn owls that were tossed to the ground when their nesting tower was ripped down by the road department. When word got out, we rounded up the fuzzy owls and for a few nights they were baby-sat by various people near the site of their former home, so they would be safe while the parents fed them. Cats and raccoons both were interested so the baby-sitting was necessary. When this became too much, they were moved to a garden of a friend about half a mile away and placed in a box on a pole. Sound was muffled so to attract the parents, a loud speaker system was set up, plus an intercom from the nursery in the house so it was possible to tell when the adult birds came to feed the babies. It has been fun but strenuous — and I am helping an iron-lunger (wonderful young man) who has been the chief barn-owl savior write a story about it all."

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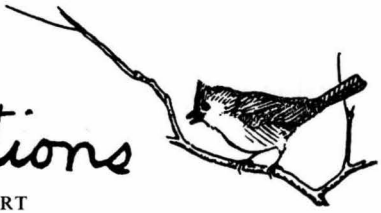
Observations



By J. Earl Comfort

St. Louis Audubon early Fall birding field activity consisted in the main of migrant warbler and shorebird checking with no unusually rare species showing up to put either family in the Area limelight. Our 22 Dunlins (Red-backed Sandpipers) in St. Charles Co. on October 31st was the most unusual shorebird listing. Our October 24th flock of some 125 Tree Swallows with two Barn Swallows aboard gave us a late date for both species.

Three Fall Bobolinks noted at Creve Coeur Lake by Alberta Bolinger on our hike gave us a surprising report since this bird rarely passes Southward in our migration route. Its drab colors in comparison to the gay dress of the Spring males may cause some of these birds to be overlooked in its inconspicuous garb.

The lakes of Grande Marais State Park, East St. Louis, furnished unusual numbers of Common Loons, of not so common area listing. Wally George came up with 8 of these big divers in early November, while others found them in twos and threes throughout October. Many listeners are still looking for the first loon of the year. Wally also gave us one of our very few Redpoll records when he spied one among some Siskins and Goldfinches in St. Charles Co., November 15th. Most area observers would gladly settle for the Siskin.

By far the best Fall find and one of the birds of the year was a Sandhill crane at Calhoun Co., Ill., on November 7th, with the long-neck performing in its traditional flight pattern for the benefit of Sally and Dick Vasse and Alberta Bolinger at Swan Lake where, earlier in season, we had listed Hutchin's Canada Geese, an Oldsquaw Duck and Franklin's Gulls as bragging material. This lake seems to spawn more of these rare tiny geese than any other local waters.

Some other species considered rather rare by listers checked during the current season were Horned Grebe, Caspian Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Osprey, Rough-legged Hawk, Krider's Redtail, Western Redtail, Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Oregon Junco.

The Society's Shaw's Garden Arboretum Nature field trips held on the last Sunday of each month have been pleasant hikes and all around get-togethers as did the Nature walk scheduled there in September by the St. Louis Nature Study Society with our society furnishing the field leaders. All conservation-minded Nature sessions there are welcomed by the management.

Eugene Wilhelm, Jr's. up-to-date checklist has become quite popular throughout a wide surrounding area. His ample booklet, containing all the bird species reported in modern listing, carries an interesting story of St. Louis' own European Tree Sparrow. One of the main features of the book is the listing of areas that are most apt to attract certain species. It may be purchased by sending 50 cents

to our Secretary, Alberta Bolinger, at 5079 Waterman ave., St. Louis 8, Mo.

The loss of our O'Fallon Park Bird Sanctuary to "progress" is only one of many throughout the nation that ultimately succumb to the relentless inundations of the bulldozers in our not so fair land after their depredations. The sad story of the loss of the above mentioned sanctuary has its origin in the progress of a local improved highway, with its resultant struggle between the city and its original donors to retain or regain rights in order to capitalize on the condemnation funds. This, in brief, is the history of the sanctuary as kindly supplied by Dr. Robert J. Terry, former Bird Club president.

On the 10th of February, 1917 the deed of the property, formerly the New Bremen Holy Trinity Cemetery, was drawn up in the favor of the city of St. Louis by Archbishop John J. Glennon with the provision relatives be permitted to remove remains from the former cemetery within 3 years. It was expressly agreed the new section of the park, adjoining O'Fallon Park on the Northwest, should NOT be used as a playground nor for the use of athletes, but the underbrush should be cleared and replaced by proper shrubs and grass with walks laid out and lighting installed as befits a public park. It was further expressly understood the property would revert to the donor if the provisions were not fulfilled.

On the 22nd of January, 1918 the papers were witnessed by the Archbishop, signed by the Notary, Wm. Reppen, and recorded by Chas. F. Joy, and filed.

At the time of the acquisition of the property by the city, Nelson Cunliff was the city park commissioner whose advice was sought and obtained, resulting in the dedication and care of the sanctuary by the St. Louis Bird Club (now St. Louis Audubon Society) A pond was promptly dug, the tract properly drained, native trees and shrubs planted with bird food and nesting potentials in mind, bird houses put up by eager school children and the plot made into a suitable sanctuary that could be enjoyed by the public. The late Dr. Jesse Greenman and his staff at the Mo. Botanical Garden were particularly helpful in directing the selection and planting of the vegetation. A bird bath and fountain were installed and later dedicated to the late Blanche Turner White, who was the Bird Club Secretary at the time of the sanctuary establishment. The bath was of granite, a boulder having been obtained from Arcadia, Mo. The sculptor was Caroline Risque. Expenses were met by the bird club, the dedicatory address delivered by the Reverend Henry Mizner. Others figuring prominently in the sanctuary success were Otto Widmann, Mr. Kelton White, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rice, Dr. and Mrs. Herman Von Schrenk, Luther Ely Smith, Mrs. Hugh McKittrick, Miss Stith, Dr. Chas. H. Danforth, and many teachers of Area schools, as well as many whose names escape the historian.

As a result of condemnation procedures a large part of the sanctuary was obtained for the Mark Twain Highway.

On June 29, 1959, Archbishop Jos. E. Ritter, successor to Archbishop Glennon, as plaintiff, sought acquisition of the sanctuary with the city of St. Louis as defendant, on the grounds the property had not been put to the use intended. The subsequent checking of the bird sanctuary by Miss Ruth Meyer and Earl Comfort showed the refuge, though not manicured in the fashion of a city park was being and had

been put to good use by the birds and the public, albeit more in the manner of a wilderness area.

STELLAR ATTRACTION . . .

AN OZARK ANTHOLOGY

Our March Screen Tour program will feature nationally known conservationist, writer, lecturer and wildlife photographer

LEONARD HALL

Thursday, March 10, 1960

8:15 P. M.

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington

NEWS BRIEFS

At the 55th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society, Dr. Olaus J. Murie of Moose, Wyoming, was awarded the Audubon Society Medal for distinguished service in conservation. Dr. Murie, scientist, author and artist, was cited for his work in bringing public attention to the need for setting aside an area of the Brooks Mountain Range in northeast Alaska as an Arctic Wildlife Range.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN
PUBLISHED BY
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Earl H. Hath.....President
Miss Alberta Bolinger.....Executive Secretary

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